

SHORT COMMUNICATION

The identity of *Centaurea riparia* DC. (Asteraceae)

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As part of my *Flora of Australia* treatment for the genus *Centaurea* L., Tribe *Cardueae* (Asteraceae), it was necessary to account for all names listed in the *Australian Plant Name Index* (Chapman 1991), i.e. those which either have an Australian type or that have been used in Australia. One name, *Centaurea riparia* DC., based on an Allan Cunningham collection from the Hastings River, has never been otherwise accounted for in Australian literature.

Upon examination of the microfiche of the type specimen, I immediately recognised it as the species currently called *Centratherum australianum* (K.Kirkman) A.R.Bean, of the Tribe *Vernonieae* (Bean 2004). Several parts of the protologue (de Candolle 1837) offer confirmation of this identification: de Candolle stated that the flower-heads are ‘bracteate’; that the exterior involucre bracts are shortly acuminate while the interior ones are coloured and somewhat denticulate; that the achenes are obscurely 10-nerved; and that the pappus is “caducissimus”.

Leafy bracts are a distinctive feature of *Centratherum* Cass. The inner and outer involucre bracts of *Centratherum* are as described in the protologue. The achenes of *Centratherum* are indeed 10-ribbed, and the pappus falls off at the slightest touch.

Centaurea riparia is an earlier name for the species currently called *Centratherum australianum*, and therefore a new combination in *Centratherum* is necessary. The type specimen was collected by Allan Cunningham from the “herb-filled riverbanks” of the Hastings River near Port Macquarie. He

would have collected it in May 1819, during P.P.King’s 2nd voyage of exploration (Curry & Maslin 1990).

***Centratherum riparium* (DC.) A.R.Bean, comb. nov.**; *Centaurea riparia* DC., *Prodr.* 6: 602 (1837). **Type:** New South Wales. Hastings River, near Port Macquarie, undated [May 1819], *A.Cunningham s.n.* (holo: G-DC, microfiche seen).

Centratherum punctatum subsp. *australianum* K.Kirkman, *Rhodora* 83: 21 (1981); *C. australianum* (K.Kirkman) A.R.Bean, *Austrobaileya* 6: 977 (2004), **syn. nov.** **Type:** New South Wales. West of Wingham on Bulga road, 12 April 1953, *J.Vickery 23846* (holo: NSW; iso: L, MO).

References

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- DE CANDOLLE, A.P. (1837). *Centaurea*. In *Prodromus systematis naturalis regni vegetabilis*, 6: 565–605. Treuttel & Wurtz: Paris.